

Editorial continued ...

and Paul Church will not rest until there is a full independent inquiry into the relationship between Westminster City Council and the property industry and how that relationship had impacted on WCC's decisions on planning, licensing and traffic in Soho over the last ten years. It's the proper inquiry into Robert Davis's

## Soho Square General Practice

As readers will know, this GP surgery at the Health Centre has had a very troubled existence in recent years under commercial providers.

When Living Care Medical Services Ltd. said last autumn that they would be handing back to the NHS their contract to run the surgery, the CLCCG (Central London Clinical Commissioning Group), which is responsible for procuring and overseeing NHS contracts in the Westminster area, ran an engagement exercise with patients and local stakeholders about the future of the practice. The response was overwhelmingly in favour of maintaining the GP practice at the Health Centre, and there was then a procurement process to find a new provider to run the Practice.

Several local surgeries put in bids, but happily no big commercial providers. Although none of the local surgeries were successful, the contract was awarded to Penceat, whose Chief Medical Officer, Dr Helen McCalvey, and Chief Officer Sree Agarwal, have experience of working in south London general practice in the Bromley area for a number of years.

Sree and Helen came to the January meeting of the PPG (Patients Participation Group) and assured the meeting they are committed to re-establishing Soho as one of the best regarded Practices in central London, with an emphasis on improving the 'patient experience'. The PPG has been very encouraged by further meetings that have been held with Penceat and are looking forward to 1 April when they will be taking over. We are very optimistic for the future of the Practice.

None of this affects Dr. Bark's Practice.

## Soho Society Hour

The Soho Society Hour goes out live on award winning local radio station Soho Radio every Thursday morning, from 9.00am to 10.00am, with hosts Clare Lynch and Leslie Hardcastle.

On 19 March 2020 we will broadcast our 300th show. On these shows four hundred and fifty guests have talked about "their Soho" and invariably speak with affection and recognition of Soho as playing a special part in their lives, but also often expressing concern for the future. We also talk about current issues and events. If you would like to join us one week and talk about "your" Soho, do get in touch by emailing Leslie Hardcastle on

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behaviour that never happened. Nothing else will restore trust in the Council to represent its voters rather than the property industry. These ghosts have roamed our streets for far too long - its time they were allowed to rest.

## Comings and Goings

**Soho Society AGM - Monday, 20 April**

**Food Feast - Weekend of 6 / 7 June**

**Soho Society Fete - Sunday, 21 June**

**Pride Parade - Saturday, 27 June**

We're sad to hear that, although not strictly Soho, Angels in Shaftesbury Avenue is closing apparently due to the landlords wanting to redevelop the site. There have been seven generations of the family throughout the 170 years they have been in business. The company has a fascinating history and it is well worth a look at their website: [www.angelsfancydress.com](http://www.angelsfancydress.com).

From the outside 90 - 104 Berwick Street doesn't look to have progressed very much in the last three months. It's difficult to know what's going on inside but who knows! Will it be completed before Crossrail opens?

The other building developments seem to be progressing with no more than the usual disruption associated with building works - will Soho ever be free of building sites? We don't hold our breath, but .....

As to restaurants and other food related matters, in Old Compton Street Belgo's has gone and is being revamped to open as another chicken restaurant, making three chicken related restaurants in Old Compton Street alone!

Also in Old Compton Street L'Antica Pizzeria Da Michele has now opened in the premises that housed Patisserie Valerie. It looks bright and fresh and, glancing through the window at people eating, the pizzas look delicious!

Another new opening is Paradise, 61 Rupert Street, specialising in Sri Lankan cuisine. The menu promises seasonality and sustainability. The chef, Charith Priyadarshana, started life in London as a kitchen porter just a decade ago. He developed a keen interest and flair for fusion cooking while working as kitchen porter, eventually being promoted to junior chef at the Lord's Cricket Ground restaurant, Lord's Tavern. We look forward to reviewing the restaurant which we understand is excellent.

Bonnie Gull in Bateman Street has closed after three years, but a restaurant called Claro will be taking its place in the spring. Leandro Carreira is teaming up with Bonnie Gull co-founder Alex Hunter to open a restaurant. 'influenced by the tabernas of Carreira's native Portugal'.

We see that there is a new fish and chip shop due to open in St Anne's Court called Hobson's Choice.

We wish all these ventures every success and look forward to visiting them in the future."